

AN ANTLERED FEMALE DEER (*ODOCOILEUS VIRGINIANUS*) FROM OHIO^{1, 2}.—On 21 October 1965, an antlered female deer was hit by an automobile and killed in Providence Township, Lucas County, Ohio. Mr. Gerald Richardson, State Game Protector, sent the head, teats, and a portion of the reproductive tract to me.

Externally, this deer resembled a female in all respects except the antlers. Teats and a vaginal orifice were present; neither a scrotum nor a penis was externally visible. However, the teats were much smaller than those from an adult doe that has lactated at least once. Internally, sex could not be definitely established, because only a portion of the vagina had been saved.

Both antlers were hard and polished, as shown in Figure 1, and had the typical corona or burr found on normal male antlers. Antler measurements are given in Table I. Tooth wear indicated that this deer was between four and five years old when killed.

TABLE I
*Measurements in inches of doe deer antlers according to Boone and
Crockett club scoring system*

Measurement	Left	Right
Number of points (1 in. or more)	3	3
Tip-to-tip spread—9.8		
Greatest spread—12.0		
Inside spread of main beams—10.2		
Length of main beam	15.2	14.5
Length of first point	2.2	2.9
Length of second point	1.3 (broken)	2.9
Circumference 1 in. above base	3.3	3.3

Does with antlers still in velvet are apparently much more common than are does with polished antlers (Ryel, 1963). Velvet-antlered does are nearly always fertile, but does with polished antlers have been reported to not be capable of conception and pregnancy (Donaldson and Douth, 1965). A relatively strong circulation of testicular hormone is necessary to inhibit the hypophyseal hormone governing antler growth (Goss, 1963). This inhibition causes the velvet to die and the mature antlers to become hard and polished. It seems probable that the Lucas County deer was a cryptorchid male with one or more cryptorchid testicles, as described by Wislocki (1956) and by Donaldson and Douth (1965).

I am aware of only one other antlered doe reported from Ohio. A spike-antlered doe, between three and four years old, was shot in the Ravenna Arsenal (Portage County) in late fall 1957. Both spikes were hard and polished (A. W. Cannon, Ohio Division of Wildlife, personal communication, 1967). Donaldson and Douth (1965, p. 705) found an average of one antlered doe killed per 3,500 antlered bucks during four hunting seasons in Pennsylvania. If this ratio is valid for Ohio, only three or four antlered does would have been expected in the nearly 13,000 antlered bucks shot since the first hunting season in 1943.—CHARLES M. NIXON. *Ohio Division of Wildlife, New Marshfield.*

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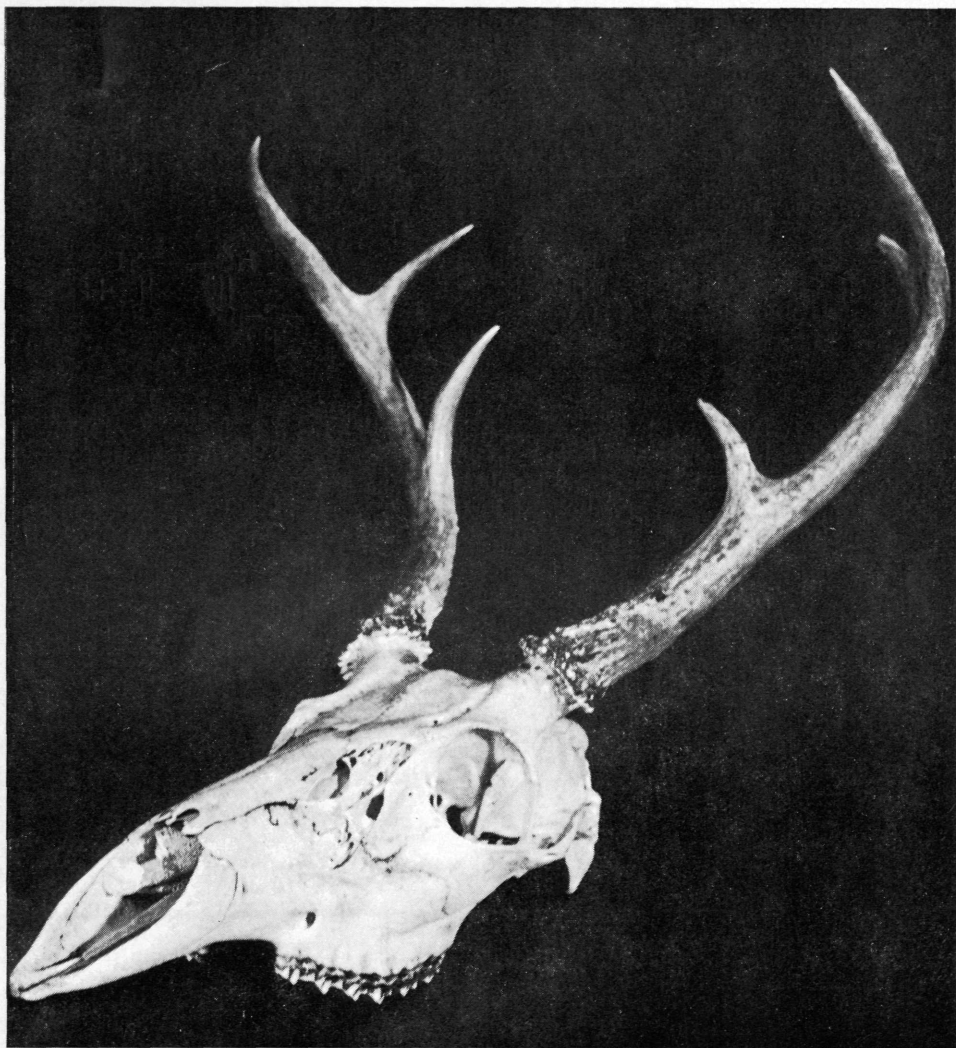


FIGURE 1. Skull of antlered female deer killed in Lucas County, Ohio, on 21 October, 1965.

LITERATURE CITED

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